



Polanki, Inc.

The Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee Newsletter

November (listopad) 2021

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:30 P.M.

POLISH CENTER OF WISCONSIN

6941 South 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132

To provide as safe a meeting as possible, in-person attendees are asked to wear masks except while eating or drinking.

Hostesses: Ewa Barczyk, Kathy Camacho, Teresa Frankowski, Suzanne Holcomb, Tamara Johnston, Kathy Murkowski, Elaine Posard

Program: All Souls' Day: The Tradition of Zaduszki in Poland

Zoom Connection – The meeting also will be available by Zoom for members who prefer not to meet in person.

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/94637263548?pwd=YVVuMzBJL1ZxR0lPVEFyM1B2VjNCQT09>

Meeting ID: 946 3726 3548 Passcode: 927741

For internet access, click on the link above to log into Zoom. Your computer will connect you and you will be able to see and listen to other participants. For telephone access only, call 1-312 626-6799 and enter the meeting ID when asked to do so. You will be able to listen to the meeting on a cell phone or a land line.

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From the President's Desk



(Photo courtesy of Joanne Barndt)

Thanksgiving

Gratitude seems to come to the fore with the change of seasons, change of leaves, and the inevitable changes in life. Although my personal life is in severe loss, with the death of my husband Joe, moving from my family's home of 45 years, and downsizing to a much smaller apartment, the support, comfort, kindness, and love, that I have experienced has made me feel especially grateful.

My family, neighbors, church, and friends have all supported me during this difficult time. What has been stunning to me is the warmth and support that has come from many Polanki members.

Special thanks to my fellow board members who have helped with their compassion, support and gentle nudges. I am grateful that in my life, Polanki is an extended family. Thank you!

Camille Shaw, 2021 President

Upcoming Polanki Events

November 15, 2021: Membership Meeting

December 19, 2021: Christmas Party at PCW

January 17, 2022: Membership Meeting

February 21, 2022: Annual Business Meeting and Election

March 6, 2022: "Songs of the Polish Soul," Kinga Vnuk and the Modern Minstrels, All Saints Lutheran Church

March 21, 2022: Membership Meeting

March 27, 2022: College Achievement Awards Tea at Polish Center of Wisconsin

April 18, 2022: Membership Meeting

May 16, 2022: Membership Meeting

June 20, 2022: Membership Meeting



November Birthdays

11/04 Margaret Cieslak-Etlicher

11/07 Monika Sobierajski

11/08 Susan Konecny

11/10 Janet Rydlewicz

11/15 Bette Dulka

Anne Wal

11/18 Dorothy Fennig

11/21 Helen Miller

11/22 Kathy Murkowski

11/29 Camille Shaw

11/30 Joan Shrout

Alena Wadzinske



Active Member Cindy Lepkowski is recovering from cataract surgery. If you know of any other Polanki members who are sick, please contact Judy Chattin, who is serving as Co-Chair this year with Edith Malson.

Edith Malson (414) 744-9412

Judy Chattin (414) 425-7965

The Polanki Library Needs You!

By Susan Mikoś

The Polanki Library is a valuable resource for the entire Polish community. Polanki originally contributed \$75,000 to construct a library in the Polish Center and has been managing it ever since. Today, the library offers a wealth of books and audiovisual materials in both Polish and English, including classic and contemporary fiction, and nonfiction topics relating to history, geography, art, music, folklore, cooking, genealogy, tourism and more.

The Library is open regularly on Tuesdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and during fish fries and other special events at the Polish Center.

We are fortunate to have a cadre of dedicated volunteers, but we always need new helpers. No experience is necessary; we'll show you what to do, whether it be book-processing, record-keeping, or interacting with the public. Some familiarity with Polish genealogy would be especially helpful, but is not a requirement. For more information, please contact Susan Mikoś at sgmikos@yahoo.com

In this Thanksgiving season, heartfelt gratitude



By Susan Mikoś

When Polanki was born, 68 years ago, it consisted of a handful of Polish women, high on dedication but low on funds. They immediately set about simultaneously raising funds and promoting Polish culture. Their first major event was an elegant Easter Tea, featuring beautiful and delicious Polish pastries. Through the years, Polanki has steadily expanded its treasury through the resourcefulness and hard work of its members, whether it be baking Polish pastries, selling folk art items imported from Poland, making soup, serving pierogi, or selling Polish pottery.

Polanki could not have accomplished all that we have without the generations of women who put their blood, sweat and tears into raising the funds needed to carry out our mission. Polanki has been generous, granting hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to college and university students, supporting innumerable community projects that shine a spotlight on Polish culture, and providing aid to several charitable enterprises in Poland.

In turn, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of a smaller number of people who appreciate Polanki's accomplishments, we have been able to make more substantial contributions to the causes we support and to ensure our future as a resource for promoting authentic Polish culture in the Milwaukee area.

We applaud and are grateful to all of our hard-working members who have contributed so much over the years. We also are grateful to those members and non-members who have advanced our mission with their monetary donations. Three of the largest gifts we have received were legacy gifts, two from Polanki members and one from a non-member who simply wanted to leave something behind that would promote the Polish culture he was proud of. Thanks to Mr. Rogozinski's foresight twenty years ago, Polanki has had sufficient funds to take on major projects that otherwise might have been beyond our reach. In addition, two of our beloved longtime members -- Vera Buczkowski and Barbara Niemczycki -- left major legacies that have enabled Polanki to increase our College Achievement Awards and our cultural offerings.

Many individuals and organizations have also made smaller, yet significant, contributions to Polanki's mission. One of the most popular vehicles is through our College Achievement Awards, which recognize outstanding students who are of Polish descent and who contribute to the promotion of Polish culture through their studies or volunteer activities. Several individuals and families have established funds that both assist worthy students and help us to remember themselves or their family members. Others consistently fund awards in memory of their loved ones over a period of years, or as a one-time gesture. Many Polanki members make generous memorial contributions to Polanki upon the death of Polanki members or their families. Others make in-kind gifts that enrich our ability to showcase the best of Polish culture. In this Thanksgiving season and always, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

A Story about Giving to Polanki by One of its Members

By Kathy Wieczorek, Polish Folk Artisan and Development Chairperson

On a trip to Poland in 1997 with Heddy Moskaluk and other Polanki members, I became acquainted with long-time active member Rita Michalak. What most impressed me was the generosity and genuine commitment of these women to Polish culture, including their detailed attention to Polish customs and traditions.

Rita reminded me that Polanki was not just a social group but a working club, too. Rita had organized a group of hard working Polanki members who hand-crafted Polish maidens' head wreaths as a fundraiser at Polish Fest and Folk Fair. This volunteer effort proved to be a good fit for my talents to support Polanki's mission to promote Polish culture and heritage.

In 2001, I applied for a grant from my employer's corporate foundation to support the lodging expenses for the *Cantores Minores* boys' chorus from Poland during their Milwaukee performance, coordinated by Ann Pienkos. This corporate funding forged an important 20-year charitable giving relationship along with quarterly retiree gift matching for Polanki that continues today, even during these difficult pandemic times.

In 2012, with generous fabric and feather donations from members and my family and unanimous approval of the Polanki Board under the leadership of Eva Barczyk-Pease, I pursued the crafting of the Polish independence cap (*konfederatka*) as another successful fundraising effort to support Polanki's general operating expenses. Margie Hess and Louise Cieslak joined the cap-making activity. I recall how much fun we had getting together and cutting apart donated fur coats.

Rita was a wonderful mentor to me and continues to inspire me to actively volunteer and financially support Polanki and its mission. My current funding priorities are providing financial aid for Polanki's fixed operating expenses through a qualified charitable distribution and supporting the Polanki Costume Fund. Little did I know 25 years ago that my Polish roots would draw me into philanthropy in memory of my Polish ancestors, good friendships among Polanki members, and a lifelong commitment to volunteerism.

WE Energies Cookie Book Available for Polanki Members

Kathy Wieczorek once again has arranged for Polanki members to get copies of the annual WE Energies Cookie Book, first printed eighty-four years ago. The books will be distributed free of charge to Polanki members in the Polanki library on Tuesdays from 11-2 and also at the Christmas party on December 19. [Kathy will also offer her handmade holiday masks free to Polanki members.]



Recipes are contributed by various members of the local community. This year's recipes were submitted by members of the U.S. armed forces, to honor their service in the military. WE Energies also maintains an archive of past cookie books, starting with the first edition in 1937. If you would like to retrieve any of these vintage books, the web site is <https://www.we-energies.com/recipes/archive> Please express your thanks to Kathy when you pick up your copy of the book and enjoy your holiday baking!

Go Back Time

By Grandson Peter Burzynski, Ph.D., in memory of Pani Jadwiga Korasz, Polanki Life Member

Go back time and stoop yourself
low right here.
Go back to the gates of cast iron lies—
vile *arbeit macht freis* and feel them melt
with her light, her life.

Go back time to the lone square
in the old town
of the ancient city
of the oft-trampled land.
17, drawn to fight
17, led to slaughter
she survived,
not out of spite,
but for life—beautiful ripples
of life. Ripples that did not disturb
the calm of water,
but made its patient stillness grow.

Go back far from here
to a place of hills—
Częstochowa
where the dark mother
holds her babe tight—
safe from the invaders' might
the desecraters' axe struck twice.
Go back time and see where
the ripples begin and sprout and blossom
and flourish, fruit, whisper, and glow.

Go back far to the mountains
of Zakopane ice and watch it cling
until the next Spring's undying snow.
Tulipanie, proszę Panowie i Panie.
A tulip breaks the cold
its red piercing the frost briefly—
its bulb hidden safe for all time
letting its family grow and grow.

Go back time and gather all the buds
that ripple.
Go back time and stay right here.
Stay here now. Stay here now.
And thank her for staying
so that ripples may continue to tremble
and blossom and live and flow.
Stay here now. Stay here
and go back time
to a heart where beats stand still
and beats ripple and ripples grow.



Jadwiga Korasz



Ada Dziewanowska and Jadwiga Korasz

Religious Shrines in Central Wisconsin

By June Groshek Czarnecki

Across the rolling farmland of central Wisconsin, roadside monuments stand proudly, reminding people who live and farm nearby of their ancestors. At several crossroads, the roadside shrines are a tradition retained from their Polish immigrant ancestors - a custom from the old country. These monuments, called "*Kapliczki*," are brick enclosures protected on three sides by glass. Inside, there is either a religious statue of Jesus, Mary or a saint, surrounded by flowers.

From the 1860s through the early 1900s, Portage County, dubbed *Polonia* (Little Poland), was settled by many people of Polish descent. For these Polish settlers the *Kapliczki* served several purposes. One was directional. These shrines helped guide wayward farmers trying to navigate across the land, when roads were dirt paths.

Another purpose was religious. For those who could not attend church, the shrines were a place where they could pray off of the road. The shrines reminded them to pause and take a moment to pray for a successful harvest or to protect them safely in their travels. Shrines also provided a way to thank God for their blessings. When horse and buggy turned to automobiles, families would lift their hands to make the sign of the cross as they passed the markers. Third, the shrines were a source of comfort. These shrines, which are still a common sight in Eastern Europe, provided new immigrants with a sense of familiarity -- easing homesickness.

Today, the *Kapliczki*, several of which are located just over the border in Marathon County, continue to be lovingly tended by generations of the descendants of Polish immigrants and in more recent times, Hispanic people. As I drive past these shrines, I am reminded that I am born from immigrants who were strong in their faith and needed reminders of their motherland as they built a new life in a foreign land.



Konkol Corners Shrine
Portage County
Intersection of County Highways K and B



Portage County
Intersection of County Highways I and Z

*Portage County
St. Mary's Mount Carmel County Highway K
"God Save Poland"*



*Portage County
Intersection of County Highways 1 and 00*

Photos courtesy of June Groshek Czarnecki

Community News and Information

Polish Center of Wisconsin continues to host a Piwo Patio Party and Café on Wednesdays through November 10 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Polish Center of Wisconsin: Sunday February 22, 2022, The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band

Select Polanki in Amazon Smile!

The holiday season is just around the corner and Black Friday is on November 26. If you shop with Amazon you can support Polanki, at no cost to you, every time you shop! Simply set up Polanki one time as your Amazon Smile non-profit recipient and Amazon will then donate 0.05% of your eligible purchases to our organization. With anticipated delays in the supply chain and shipping, this is a good time to start supporting Polanki with Amazon Smile.



When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they're asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When you click on the Polanki unique link, you will skip this charity selection process. Instead, you will be taken to smile.amazon.com and will automatically be asked if you want to support POLANKI.

The POLANKI unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6068373>

Polanki information and the Polanki link to Amazon Smile is on the Polanki website at www.polanki.org

Polanki Christmas Party 2021 Update and Request

Joyfully anticipating our in-person Christmas party at the Polish Center of Wisconsin on Sunday December 19, Co-chairs Nadine and Denna Flemming have two requests for Polanki members to make a more festive gathering:

- Share your favorite home-baked Christmas cookies or bars, 2 per cupcake liner, for the dessert table.
- Submit one beloved family Christmas/holiday recipe.

Please send the recipe to Marjorie Piechowski at marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net *no later than December 1*. These recipes will be added to the ones submitted last year during our virtual Christmas celebration and will be compiled into a small keepsake cookbook that will be available as a take-home party favor. It would be most helpful if the recipes are submitted as a Word document but if necessary, pdf copies can be converted to Word. You can also mail a hard copy of your recipe to Marjorie's home address, found in the Polanki directory.

Once again, we will have a raffle to help support Laski, the Polish school for the blind, outside Warsaw. Polanki has sent funds to this school for many years from our Christmas raffle and individual member donations. Details about the raffle will be provided at the November meeting and in the December newsletter. Active Member Helen Miller is chairing the raffle, assisted by her husband, Norman Knox.



If there are questions about the party arrangements, please contact Nadine or Denna Flemming. Pricing and reservation forms are still being developed, but we look forward to enjoying an in-person party once again.

Victorian Holiday Craft Fair *Saturday, December 4, 2021, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.* *Sponsored By Second Chance Animal Advocates*

River Bluff Middle School, 235 N. Forest St., Stoughton, WI.

40+ Vendors Arts & Crafts – Polanki will have a sales booth.

Music

Local Rescues

Raffles

Food

Bake Sale

And Tons of Fun!



Let's Celebrate the Season Together!

National Independence Day in Poland

National Independence Day (Polish: *Narodowe Święto Niepodległości*) is a national day in Poland celebrated on 11 November to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of Poland's sovereignty as the Second Polish Republic in 1918 from the German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires. Following the partitions in the late 18th century, Poland ceased to exist for 123 years until the end of World War I, when the destruction of the neighboring powers allowed the country to reemerge. It is a non-working day and a flag flying day in Poland.

The restoration of Poland's independence was gradual. The date of 11 November is the one on which Marshal Józef Piłsudski assumed control of Poland. It was a day of military ceremony since 1920. The holiday was constituted in 1937 and was celebrated only twice before World War II. After the war, the communist authorities of the People's Republic removed Independence Day from the calendar, although reclamation of independence continued to be celebrated informally on 11 November. The holiday was officially replaced by the National Day of Poland's Revival as Poland's National Day, celebrated on 22 July, anniversary of the communist PKWN Manifesto under Joseph Stalin.

In particular, during the 1980s, in many cities, including Warsaw, informal marches and celebrations were held, with the outlawed Solidarity Movement supporters participating. Typically these marches were brutally dispersed by the communist militarized police forces, with many participants arrested by the security police. During this time 11 November Independence Day marches, alongside the Constitution Day on 3 May celebration gatherings, also banned by the communist authorities, were the customary dates of demonstrations by the opponents of the communist regime. As Poland emerged from communism in 1989, the original holiday—on its original 11 November date—was restored.

The date coincides with the celebration of the World War I Armistice in other countries. All of these holidays and Polish Independence Day are indirectly related because they all emerged from the circumstances at the end of World War I. In other countries, holidays were established in the spirit of grief and horror at the enormous human cost of the war, and they mark the sacrifices of those who fought.

For Poland, however, the tragedy of the war was tempered by what had been accomplished at its end: the restoration of a sovereign Polish state that had been lost entirely in the partitions of Poland, after 123 years of struggle. The Polish holiday is therefore simultaneously a celebration of the reemergence of a Polish state and a commemoration of those who fought for it.



Military ceremony performed on Piłsudski Square, before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Retrieved from Wikipedia on November 1, 2021: National Independence Day (Poland)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OTHER POSITIONS

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Web Master	Dana Michaels (414) 418-5414

A Note from the Editor

As we try to resume in-person meetings and public events, we will keep you informed and updated as circumstances change. ***At this point we are planning our traditional Christmas party and the College Achievement Awards Tea, both to be held at the Polish Center of Wisconsin.***

If you have ideas for future stories or potential meeting programs, please submit ideas or contact me at marjorie.piechowsk@sbcglobal.net or 414-963-9055.

Marjorie Piechowski
2021 Polanki Newsletter Editor



(Photo courtesy of Marjorie Piechowski)

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